



DRAFT



GCSE

RELIGIOUS STUDIES B Philosophy and Ethics

Our specification offers a great way of engaging your students in a modern and stimulating issue-based course accessible to all students regardless of their faith or background. Built on the success of our market leading Philosophy and Ethics specification, offering a choice of faiths which have now been extended to include Humanism, Buddhism and Sikhism. Both the short course and full course offer exceptional progression from earlier key stage learning and the short course in particular provides an excellent outcome.

www.ocr.org.uk/religiousstudiesb/newgcse

What's happening to GCSEs?

OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009*.

We've taken this opportunity to improve the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and students alike.

We've made improvements in three key areas: updated and relevant content, a focus on developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills, and flexible assessment, so you can choose the best learning approach for the job.

We want to make the introduction of these new GCSEs as easy for you to manage as possible.

The main changes are:

- Controlled assessment will be introduced for most subjects
- The opportunity will be taken to bring course content up to date
- Examinations should provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Our approach is to provide consistency across all our GCSEs by offering the flexibility that unitised qualifications bring, allowing teaching and assessment in either a linear or unitised fashion.

*Not all GCSEs are changing. There are a few exceptions: the new Science GCSE was introduced in 2006. New English, English Literature, ICT and Maths GCSEs will be offered for first teaching in 2010.



Improving GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics with OCR

We've involved teachers throughout the development process, so the new specifications, support materials and schemes of work should be exactly what you need to teach OCR GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics. To ensure accuracy in our content, we've also consulted subject associations, professional membership groups, subject societies and other subject experts.



Our GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics

- An engaging and modern issue-based approach to the study of religion, which has been designed to be accessible to a wide range of students including those of faith and non-faith backgrounds
- Ideal progression from earlier key stage learning which can be mapped to your local SACRE syllabus. The short course offers an ideal outcome
- The ability to top up the short course to a full course - there is also the option to combine the Philosophy and Ethics short course with the World Religions short course to make a full course GCSE in Religious Studies
- A choice of a variety of popular and now extended topics which have been designed in consultation with teachers and include areas such as medical ethics and religion in the media
- A flexible and modular issue-based approach.

Making change easy

We'd like to make these changes as easy for you to manage as possible. To minimise disruption, we will:

- Guide you through the process of moving to OCR
- Bring you the latest information through our Focus on 14–19 magazine and our new website www.GCSEchanges.com
- Show you approved specifications one year ahead of first teaching, so you have plenty of preparation time
- Offer you a range of OCR support materials, including schemes of work and sample assessment materials, as we did with A Levels
- Make OCR's publisher partner resources – tailored to the new specifications – available from January 2009
- Endorse a variety of published resources, giving you a wider choice of quality support materials.

We're also running extra INSET and training courses across the UK, so now it's even easier to discover how OCR has developed its specifications.

Controlled assessment

There is no controlled assessment for Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics.

While reviewing GCSEs, QCA looked into the coursework element of the current qualifications and decided to introduce controlled assessment as a replacement to coursework. This will address some of the issues raised in recent coursework reviews, such as plagiarism.



Controlled assessment has to be done in a supervised environment. However, if the task has a research element, the student may complete this without supervision.

The benefits of controlled assessment include:

- More straightforward marking – for most subjects, students are provided with worksheets to submit their work on
- Improved reliability and validity
- Varying levels of control, to help you manage the assessments and your time more easily
- Greater confidence in authenticating students' work as their own
- Greater ease in fitting assessments into your normal teaching programmes.

Flexible assessment

The assessment for the new OCR GCSEs is organised into units which can either all be taken at the end of the course in a linear fashion, or be used to complement a more unitised approach to teaching and learning. This gives you the flexibility to choose the assessment approach best suited to your centre and your students. A unitised structure gives you the flexibility to co-teach short and full courses.

We already offer assessments that are organised into units at A Level and for some existing GCSEs. For many subjects, assessments will be available twice a year. Flexible assessment means:

- You will have a choice of learning approaches – linear or unitised
- The assessment can be timed to match the point of learning within the course, making it easier for candidates to show what they know, understand and can do
- Students can re-sit a unit rather than repeat the entire assessment
- Some students are motivated by ongoing feedback and this helps them identify their learning needs
- A unitised approach makes it easier for students to stay on track with their studies and manage their time effectively
- The pressure of an 'all or nothing' assessment is removed
- Examination stress is reduced by permitting assessment over a longer period so that not all assessments are concentrated in a narrow window at the end of two years

- With a similar format to A Levels and Diplomas, GCSEs will help prepare students for the next phase of their education.

To ensure that the assessment supports the coherence of the GCSEs and there is no over-assessment, QCA has put two rules in place: 40% of the assessment must happen at the end of the course and only one re-sit of each assessment unit is allowed.

You may know 'unitised' as modular.

GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics

Unit title and description	Assessment including duration	Weighting (including short course weightings)
Unit B601 Philosophy 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Nature of Deity• The Nature of Belief• Religion and Revelation.	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B602 Philosophy 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good and Evil• Death and the Afterlife• Religion and Science.	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B603 Ethics 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Religion and Human Relationships• Religion and Medical Ethics• Religion, Poverty and Wealth.	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course
Unit B604 Ethics 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Religion, Peace and Justice• Religion and Equality• Religion and the Media.	Written examination 1 hour	25% full course 50% short course

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

AO1

- Describe, explain and analyse, using knowledge and understanding.

AO2

- Use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints.



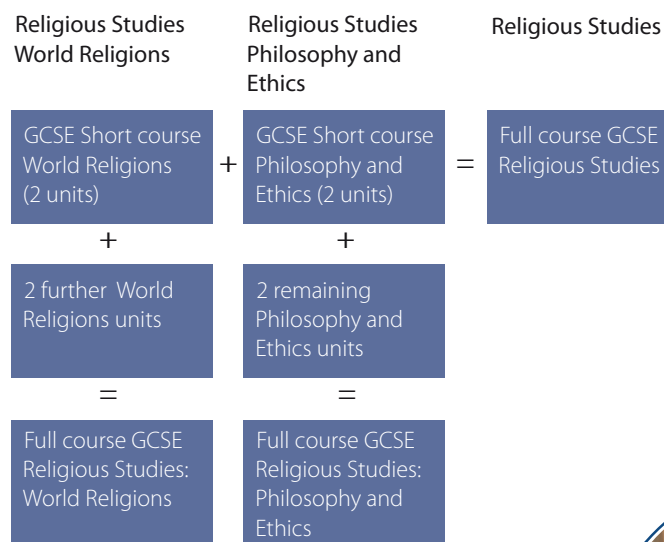
Short courses

We also offer a short course in GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics, equivalent to half a GCSE. This offers several advantages:

- There are only two units to complete.
- Students can study a wider range of subjects.
- Timetabling for shorter courses can be easier for your centre.
- More able students can complement their studies by taking additional short courses.
- Short courses can be spread over one or two years.

- Short course achievement can be 'topped up' to full course by completing the remaining two units.
- Short course Philosophy and Ethics can be studied using a mix of Philosophy and Ethics topics or alternatively by focusing on either Philosophy or Ethics.
- The short course in Philosophy and Ethics can be combined with a short course in World Religions to achieve a full course GCSE in Religious Studies.

The short course to full course options are as below:



What changes, and what stays the same?

	What changes?	What stays the same?
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a full course candidates study four units and if completing over two years can sit examinations over two summer sessions and a January session if they wish • Short course candidates study two units and if completing in one year can sit examinations in January and June • Candidates completing a short course can top up their learning with two remaining units to achieve a full course • Philosophy and Ethics short course can be combined with World Religions short course to achieve a full course GCSE Religious Studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approach remains an issue-based • The distinction between the Philosophy content and the Ethics content is maintained • Equal number of topics (6) available for Philosophy and Ethics
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three new faiths/beliefs have been added (Buddhism, Sikhism and Humanism). A possible seven faiths/beliefs can be chosen from • Two new topics have been added to the choice of ten previously available; the new topics are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Religion and Revelation ◦ Religion and the Media • The addition of the new topics means that you have an increased choice and can choose four topics from six for a short course in pure Philosophy or pure Ethics and have a choice of eight topics from twelve for a full course • The Nature of God' is now called 'The Nature of Deity'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ten topics on the current specification remain and have been updated where necessary, they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Nature of Deity (formerly The Nature of God) ◦ The Nature of Belief ◦ Good and Evil ◦ Death and the Afterlife ◦ Religion and Science ◦ Religion and Human Relationships ◦ Religion and Medical Ethics ◦ Religion, Poverty and Wealth ◦ Religion Peace and Justice ◦ Religion and Equality.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no coursework/controlled assessment • All examinations are 1 hour • There are two assessment objectives instead of three • The allocation of marks to questions has changed to reflect the 50/50 weighting of the assessment objectives • The full course is now four examination papers instead of two • The short course is now two examination papers instead of one • Candidates will be asked to complete two questions from a choice of three • Unit B603 is available for assessment in January and June. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total examination time remains the same • The look and feel of the examination questions will be familiar • There will be one examination question on each topic in the specification and candidates will continue to have a choice as to which questions they answer • Each examination question will be set in the context of each of the seven faiths/beliefs covered in the specification. • Candidates will be required to answer the same number of questions • The part C question includes a prompt.

Support for GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics teachers

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specifications and to support you while teaching them.

Our support materials and events include face-to-face training courses, schemes of work that you can customise, endorsed publisher partner resources, access to teacher and examiner networks (both online and offline), plus an extensive past-papers service.

OCR's online resources include:

- E-communities – online networks of subject specialists for sharing knowledge, views and ideas
- Interchange – a completely free and secure website that helps you carry out the administrative tasks associated with examinations quickly and easily
- Past examination papers
- Marking schemes
- Subject e-alerts – for teachers who register for updates.

We offer a wide range of training courses in the UK, so you have easy access to information about our new specifications – direct from the experts. See opposite for more details.



Training for OCR GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics

Our Get Ready events offer a taste of the new specification. Dates are given below, and you can book your place now at www.GCSEchanges.com/keydates.asp.

Later, we'll be running our Get Started events, which take you through the specification in more detail and help you work towards first teaching. They will take place during the spring and summer terms 2009.

Get Ready – introducing the new specification (first teaching from September 2009)

This course is for all teachers – new and experienced – who are interested in finding out more about the new specification. It's open to you, even if you don't teach the current OCR specification.

It's a **FREE** half-day session, including refreshments, a light finger buffet and course materials, offering an overview of the new OCR specification in GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics. Key features include:

- A look at the new structure, content and assessment methods
- A comparison between old and new specification content
- An introduction to the support and resources available from OCR
- A summary of the benefits of choosing the new OCR specification.

Date	Location	Course code
Thurs 3 Jul 08 AM	London	ORSA201
Thurs 3 Jul 08 PM	London	ORSA202
Fri 4 Jul 08 AM	Manchester	ORSA203
Fri 4 Jul 08 PM	Manchester	ORSA204
Wed 16 Jul 08 AM	Birmingham	ORSA205
Wed 16 Jul 08 PM	Birmingham	ORSA206
Mon 15 Sept 08 AM	London	ORSA207
Mon 15 Sept 08 PM	London	ORSA208
Thurs 18 Sept 08 AM	Birmingham	ORSA209
Thurs 18 Sept 08 PM	Birmingham	ORSA210
Tues 14 Oct 08 AM	Bristol	ORSA211
Tues 14 Oct 08 PM	Bristol	ORSA212
Wed 22 Oct 08 AM	Nottingham	ORSA213
Wed 22 Oct 08 PM	Nottingham	ORSA214
Thurs 6 Nov 08 AM	Manchester	ORSA215
Thurs 6 Nov 08 PM	Manchester	ORSA216
Fri 21 Nov 08 AM	London	ORSA217
Fri 21 Nov 08 PM	London	ORSA218
Tues 20 Jan 09 AM	Birmingham	ORSA219
Tues 20 Jan 09 PM	Birmingham	ORSA220

Please note:

- Free OCR Training courses will not incur any penalty fees however, so that we can offer your place to another delegate please notify us in good time of your course cancellation.
- Dates are subject to change so please ensure you read your booking confirmation and web updates as OCR Training cannot be held responsible for delegates who attend on an incorrect date.
- Courses throughout summer 2008 and autumn 2008 terms may be based on the draft specification.
- *The times of these courses may vary from the standard advertised time.
- Delegates may attend an AM only session, PM only session or both AM and PM sessions, where two different specifications are being covered on the same day.
- On your booking form, you must put course codes for all sessions you wish to attend, failure to do so may result in you being booked onto incorrect sessions.

Publishing support for GCSE Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics teachers

We're working with publisher partner Heinemann to provide further resources to support teachers of the new specification.

Resource	Format	Samples available from
Philosophy of Religions student book	Print	March 2009
Ethical Studies student book	Print	March 2009
Teacher Resource with LiveText CD-ROM	Print and electronic	March 2009
Revision guide	Print	March 2009



To find the latest information on published resources, please visit www.ocr.org.uk/religiousstudiesb/newgcse and choose published resources from the right-hand menu.

www.ocr.org.uk

OCR customer contact centre

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